

West Hartford Clean Energy Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Date: Dec 16, 2014
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Room 422, Town Hall

- Introductions
 - Attendees: Joe Campanella, Macke Dykes, Catherine Diviney, Lyle Wray, Chris Nelson, Matt Macunas, George Porter, Gerry Hayes, Jeff Huang, David Goldberg, Max DuBuisson, Bernard Lungaho, Beth Papermaster, Anuragi Khadka (student), Rachael (student), Moriah (student) Susan Begin, Kate Flaherty
 - We had several HS students visiting for a class project.
- 2015 meeting schedule – approve (attached)
 - 2015 meeting dates voted/approved
- Performance Contracting update
 - The long standing discussion with Ameresco yielded many proposed projects to save energy in WH's Town and School buildings.
 - Catherine notified the Task Force that the town has decided to pay Ameresco for its audit (developing the projects) but will complete the projects with its own contractors. The reason for this change is that the projects seemed straightforward and the Town is convinced that it can save money and avoid the high markup pricing of Ameresco.
 - All identified projects are planned to continue – the only change is that the contractor will be chosen by WH.
 - Funding for the projects is budgeted in 2015 (\$6 Million) and 2016 (\$2 Million).
 - Funding still needs to be approved as increase to capital projects budget by Town Council – Town Manager gave good support indication for anything under 7 year payback (which project has), but there are a lot of new budget requests this year, so outcome is still uncertain.
- Recycling update
 - Catherine updated the task force on the proposed organics-recycling plan in the West Hartford Schools.

- Originally the material was going to go to Covanta's partner "Turning Earth" in Southington. However this partnership has been delayed and thus the Town has decided to send organics to Blue Earth Composting (a local company) who will collect material and transport it to Ellington to be composted. This is an interim solution until a viable anaerobic digestion facility is built and able to handle the organics.
- David Gabriel who led the Town's recycling efforts is retiring and John Phillips – director public works is seeking task force input into how best to create a new position based on Mr. Gabriel's vacancy.
- Catherine is working with the Hall High School Environmental group to develop publicity around the organics-recycling prototype station for cafeteria and revamp their recycling program.
- Background on plan efforts
 - Catherine reminded the combined Task Force of how the Energy Plan was created and led a discussion of several broad issues
 - Whether the plans would be created separately or in combined fashion – it was decided to create the plans separately – but to periodically update the two subcommittees on progress and look for synergies and opportunities to overlap
 - Whether to loop in broad issues such as sustainability. It was decided to have broad concepts such as sustainability, climate change, and resiliency be an integral part of these plans.
 - There was a discussion of the Conservation Commission and how to integrate its work and our work. We decided to review the plan and discuss at our next Task Force meeting.
- Topics – roles, timeline, meetings, existing plans, outline/sections
- Breakout into Energy & Recycling Sub-Committees at 7:45 PM.

Energy Sub-Committee Notes

Catherine Diviney, Jeff Huang, Max DuBuisson, Gerry (Wethersfield), Joe Campanella, Matt Macunas, Kate Flaherty, Bernie Pelletier, Mackey Dykes, Mickey Bush

- It was decided to have the plan encompass both the Town/ School as well as residential and Business. Prior plan focused on just the Town and Schools.
- The Energy sub group will meet every two weeks
- This is viewed as a 6 month process (self-imposed deadline)
- Joe Campanella distributed an approach to planning that starts with a high level vision and works down
- Next meeting we are to have a proposed vision to discuss:
 - Review of other regions and cities
 - Jeff Huang – Europe
 - Bernie Pelletier– Northeast US
 - Matt Macunas – Southwest
 - Max DuBoisson– UN Climate Committee
 - Catherine Diviney – Clean Energy Communities (i.e. is there as state plan for us to work into)
 - Joe Campanella – LEEDS guidance
- Specific to do's
 - Catherine to set up Google docs
 - Jeff to set up project management template.

Recycling Sub-Committee Notes (by Chris Nelson)

PLAN INTRO – current scenario, qualitative & quantitative history

TOWN

Municipal buildings

Schools (paper/bottle/cans, organics)

Public Spaces (BBS / Downtown / sports fields – proper receptacles, placement, #)

Collection options for other recyclable items (films, EPR items like paint, electronics, mattresses)

HHW days

Composting operation at Westmoor Park?

Town ordinance – authority to fine generators not compliant with state recycling laws

Optimal use of Brixton St property. User fees? Site for regional approach?

Duties of Town Recycling Coordinator

RESIDENTIAL

Increase education on curbside do's & don't's

3rd bin for organics (food scrap, yard waste)?

Unit-based pricing (UBP) or pay-as-you-throw (PAYT)

Backyard composting – subsidized bin w/class at Westmoor?

INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL/INSTITUTIONAL (ICI) – businesses & campuses

Compliance with current state laws

Education & outreach to this sector

Encourage organics recycling at grocery stores, schools, colleges & universities, restaurants

Recognition program

Multi-family homes, apartment complexes

FOOD WASTE

WHPS currently collecting source separated food scrap, still being sent to waste-to-energy facility.

Nutrition services wants an update. Are there interim solutions? Southington is plan for long-term.

DPW to meet with Blue Earth.

- What is volume generated?
- What is the necessary transportation frequency

Getting custom organics & recycling sorting stations built for WH high schools (Hall first)

Prototype being built by WH Nutritional Services (approx.. \$2000 each to construct)

Hall High School Environmental Club wants to get involved (have contacted Catherine D?). Similar clubs at other schools?

OTHER

Education/Awareness – update website, use of apps?

Expectations for haulers servicing private sector in town